

The 2012 Bahamian Youth Expression Against Drugs Essay, Rap and Poetry Competition

The Bahamas National Drug Council and The United States Embassy are pleased to announce the first Bahamian Youth Expression Against Drugs Competition (*Youth Express*). The purpose of the *Youth Express* is to encourage students throughout The Bahamas to consider the harmful impact of illegal drugs and reflect on how they can actively resist negative peer pressure and lead the fight against drugs in their community.

Who can participate? All students in The Bahamas between the ages of 12-14 are invited to participate in *Youth Express* by submitting an original essay, rap, or spoken word poetry performance that demonstrates their commitment to fostering drug-free communities throughout The Bahamas.

Theme: How do illegal drugs harm individuals, families, and communities? What can you do to counter illegal drugs and their harmful effects in your community?

Prizes: *Youth Express* finalists will receive digital cameras, take part in a Summer Youth Leadership Camp this June and attend the National Geographic's Photo Camp to be held at the Island School on Cape Eleuthera this Fall. The students with winning submissions will also be highlighted as part of The Government of The Bahamas' Drug Demand Reduction Campaign – "Drugs and Crime are a Waste of Time."

Formats: Let your creativity guide you! Express yourself through an essay, rap, or spoken word poetry.

- Essays should be 300-500 words, typed, doubled spaced and in 14 font;
- Raps and spoken word poetry performances should last 2-4 minutes;
- Rap and spoken word poetry submissions must include typed lyrics and a video of the performance submitted on DVD, as a MP3 file or as a direct link to a YouTube page (see *Note below).

Judging: All submissions must be your own artistic creation, although you may receive some limited technical assistance from others. Submissions will be judged on the use of the theme, creativity, delivery/style, and overall impact by a panel of judges. Entries that infringe upon copyright protected material will be disqualified.

Deadline & Submission: All entries must be submitted electronically as an attachment no later than **March 1, 2012** to YouthExpress2012@BahamasNDC.org or by mailing it to The Bahamas National Drug Council, P.O. Box N-9248. Finalists will be notified by the end of March.

Contact: For additional information details on the 2012 Youth Expression Against Drugs Competition, visit the Bahamas National Drug Council webpage, <http://www.BahamasNDC.org> or the U.S Embassy webpage, <http://nassau.usembassy.gov>, the National Drug Council's Facebook page or call BNDC at 325-4633/4

*Note: Although DVDs and MP3s will be accepted, YouTube is the preferred method for submitting video performances. YouTube submissions should include the full name of the competition in the title of the video - "Bahamian Youth Expression Against Drugs Competition." A link to the YouTube video should also be included in the application.